

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1848

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PROP, AO, UR

SUBJECT: PROPAGANDIST'S COMMENTS ON ANGOLAN SITUATION

1. Leningrad PROPAGANDIST G. D. BUCHKO COMMENTED BRIEFLY ON ANGOLAN SITUATION IN DECEMBER 28 PUBLIC PRESENTATION ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. BUCHKO CHARACTERIZED SITUATION IN ANGOLA AS DIFFICULT BOTH GEOGRAPHICALLY AND POLITICALLY AND TERMED THE CIVIL WAR "VERY DANGEROUS." HE MADE NO MENTION OF THE PRESENCE OF SOVIET OR CUBAN ELEMENTS IN ANGOLA, BUT CHARGED THAT U.S. ARMS WERE BEING SENT TO ANGOLAN FACTIONS VIA AZORES. BUCHKO SAID THAT DESPITE U.S. CONGRESSIONAL PROHIBITION OF ARMS AID, U.S. ARMS WERE NEVERTHELESS BEING PROVIDED "UNDER OTHER FLAGS."

2. PROPAGANDIST BEMOANED SLOW PROCESS OF INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF MPLA AS GOVERNMENT AND HE TERMED OAU RECOGNITION OF ALL FACTIONS AS A PREMATURE STEP. SPECIFICALLY, BUCHKO OBSERVED THAT "TO OUR GREAT REGRET, ONLY A FEW COUNTRIES HAVE RECOGNIZED THE MPLA."

3. NOTING OIL RICHES OF ANGOLA, BUCHKO SKETCHED A TYPICAL PICTURE OF MONOPOLY CAPITAL'S INVOLVEMENT AND GULF OIL'S INTEREST IN EXPLOITING ANGOLAN OIL RESERVES AT A PRICE "VERY SMALL IN COMPARISON WITH ARAB OIL." FURTHERMORE, U.S. INVOLVEMENT WAS SAID TO STEM ALSO FROM FACT THAT U.S. PURCHASES HALF

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OF ALL ANGOLAN COFFEE PRODUCTION.

4. BUCHKO WOUND UP BY RIGHTEOUSLY OBSERVING THAT, UNLIKE U.S.,
SOVIET UNION HAS NO ECONOMIC INTERESTS WHATEVER IN ANGOLA.
THUS, HE CONCLUDED, U.S. AND SOVIET INTERESTS IN ANGOLA WERE
COMPLETELY OPPOSITE.
NEUBERT

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